

**Subpart B—Agency Use of Appropriated Funds for Child Care Costs for Lower Income Employees—What Is the New Child Care Legislation and to Whom Does It Apply?**

SOURCE: 65 FR 13660, Mar. 14, 2000, unless otherwise noted.

**§ 792.200 To whom do “we”, “you”, and their variants apply?**

Use of pronouns, “we,” “you,” and their variants throughout this part refers to the agency. OPM is always referred to as “OPM”.

**§ 792.201 What does the new law permit?**

Public Law 106-58 (113 Stat. 477) permits agencies to use appropriated funds, including revolving funds, that are otherwise available to the agency for salaries, to improve the affordability of child care for lower income Federal employees. Employees can benefit from reduced tuition rates at Federal child care centers, non-Federal child care centers, and in family child care homes.

**§ 792.202 What is the purpose of the new law?**

The law is intended to make child care more affordable for lower income Federal employees through the use of agency appropriated funds.

**§ 792.203 Should we notify anyone of our intention to initiate a program and when can the obligation be made?**

Yes, you must provide notice to the House Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service and General Government and to the Senate Subcommittee on Treasury and General Government and to your appropriations subcommittees prior to the obligation of funds. This is a Congressional notification requirement. You must also notify OPM of your intention. Funds can be obligated immediately after notifications have occurred.

**§ 792.204 Are there sample memoranda and other documents available to assist us with this process?**

Yes, OPM will provide you with guidance that contains sample memoranda of understanding, sample marketing tools, sample tuition assistance applications, and models for determining tuition assistance eligibility. These materials can be found in “Guide for Implementing Child Care Legislation—Pub. L. 106-58, Sec. 643.” The Guide is available on OPM’s website, <http://www.opm.gov/wrkfam>. You may also obtain a copy by writing to OPM at: U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Family-Friendly Workplace Advocacy Office, 1900 E Street, NW., Room 7315, Washington, DC 20415.

**§ 792.205 Are there additional materials necessary for the implementation of this process and are there any special reporting and oversight requirements related to this law?**

Yes, you are responsible for tracking the utilization of your funds and reporting the results to OPM. OPM will provide you with a mandatory reporting form. OPM is required to provide a report to the appropriations committees no later than September 1, 2000. Therefore, you are required to report your results to OPM no later than August 1, 2000. OPM will provide you with guidance on this subpart.

**§ 792.206 What are the benefits to an agency of providing such assistance to its lower income employees?**

There are several benefits for the agencies beginning with improved recruitment and retention. Cost savings in recruitment and training can be significant. In addition, absenteeism rates related to child care problems can be reduced. Providing such subsidies can also increase morale, particularly among families who cannot afford the child care located at or near a child care center that is sponsored by their agency. The use of funds for lower income families who are enrolled or wish to enroll in Federal child care centers